Drought relief measures in States

623. SHRI R. P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made fresh assessment of the prevailing drought conditions in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Orissa, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra. etc., some of which are in their second or third year of crisis;

(b) if so, the detailed present status thereof;

(c) the specific short-terms steps taken to provide food, water, fodder etc. in different areas;

(d) the long-term steps taken towards drought-proofing initiatives; and

(e) the details of help sought/offered by international agencies / countries to meet the challenges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The drought situation in the States was recently reviewed at a High Level meeting with representatives of the State Government and it was felt that with the good rainfall during the current monsoon, the situation has improved in most of the States.

(c) and (d) A number of timely measures were taken by the Government of India in close coordination with the affected States. These included transportation of drinking water and fodder free of cost by the railways, allocation of foodgrains at Below Poverty Line (BPL) rates, allocation of foodgrains free of cost under Food for Work Programme, allocation of feed category of foodgrains for use as cattle feed, relaxation of norms for release of funds under drinking water supply schemes and also for renovation, restoration, replacement, rejuvenation of existing/defunct drinking water schemes.

(e) No help has been sought from International agencies/countries.

Floods in Orissa and Chhattisgarh

624. SHRI ANANTA SETHI:
SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total areas in Orissa and Chhattisgarh affected by recent flood;